

CUMBERLAND

Rhode Island

Conservation Commission

George Gettinger - Chairman

Briscoe

Lang - Treasurer

Julie Medeiros - Secretary

Dick Morrissey, Greg Meyers, Walter

Burke

Minutes of Meeting, September 12, 2013

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on September 12, 2013 at 6:38pm at the Hayden Center Library, Meeting Room 4, 1464 Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland Rhode Island with George Gettinger presiding. In attendance were Julie Medeiros, Briscoe Lang, Greg Meyers and Walter Burke. Special guest Kelly Morris

Minutes: June meeting were approved.

Treasurers Report: The most recent budget numbers were not available at time of meeting per Mr. Lang. Adopted budget of \$2500.00 for 2014.

Old Business:

Agenda items were tabled to focus the meeting on deciphering the

Master Plan for Diamond Hill Park and determining the collective opinion of the council to recommend approval of the submission the Wetlands Application by the Town of Cumberland.

Mr. Lang stated, on record, that Pare Engineering, by which he is employed, did propose a bid on said project although the company was not awarded the contract.

The task at hand for the CCC is to determine what the intent is of the scope and design of the project. Is what is proposed a detriment to the park's environment or will it increase the biological value? The commission as a whole feels strongly that the reconstruction of the parking lot is a major component in this project. Adhering to strict restrictions by designing rain gardens with in the parking area will be both ecologically and aesthetically responsible and promote increased park use by the citizens of the Town of Cumberland.

It is the advisory opinion of the CCC that proper procedures must be followed and the intent to maintain the integrity of the project before any recommendations are provided.

Some of the Concerns that were voiced from commission members were as follows;

Residents must be assured that project is supported by allocated grant funding and the

Venue is to promote Public enjoyment and not for large

Entertainment Promoters to profit

A decision was made to schedule an additional meeting on September 26, 2013 in order to review the Master Plan that was not provided to the commission at the 9/12/13 meeting.

A request was made to Kelly Morriss to email each member a pdf copy in order to review and be prepared for the 9/26/13 additional meeting.

Ms. Morris & Mr. Burke discussed a future meeting determine if the Town of Cumberland would qualify for any grant monies from the Champlin Foundation

Mr. Lang excused himself at 8:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Minutes of Special Meeting September 26, 2013

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on September 26, 2013 at 6:41pm at the Cumberland Public Library , Hayden Center Meeting room 4, 1464 Diamond Hill Road, with George Gettinger presiding. In attendance for this special meeting were Julie Medeiros, Briscoe Lang, Walter Burke. Special guests George Gifford and Kelly Morris.

Resident: Debra Vine Smith voiced again her same concerns in reference to wildlife alterations as well as Picnic area accommodations. Ms. Smith was reminded that in this preliminary stage the language is broad and that issues will be addressed specifically as the project progresses.

This special meeting was based on scheduled September meeting and now received additional information on Master Plan. It was discussed that commission member Michael Scalzi is no longer residing in Cumberland and unfortunately will no longer serve on the commission.

Mr Gifford began the meeting by presenting a detailed conceptual map of the proposed enhancements to Diamond Hill Park. . Millstone Engineering, P.C

Mr. Gifford mentioned that meetings were held with the Governor's Council on Disabilities in reference to providing and possibly exceeding regulatory handicap accessibility requirements.

The commission learned that most of the existing stone wall will be removed, excavating land to create a wetland area nearer to woodline.

A paved walkway is proposed using concrete pervious pavers to allow all visitors to enjoy the enhancements to this treasure of a public space.

A very important recreational component will now be addressed by

providing a fishing pond. A sloped area planted with native plant species will provide for erosion control, a aesthetic background and especially will provide a habitat for native creatures to integrate. Concerns were addressed involving safety measures during excavation to maintain “aquatic siltration control”.

Concerns still revolve around the safety of the parking lot. Ms. Morris mentioned that the Town must receive grant money for “primary use” first then receive/apply for grant money for “accessory “ parking lot construction.

Mr. Lang’s educated concerns allowed the commission to be privy to a detailed explanation of certain practices including existing underdrain system relating to water levels, Flow Control structure and sediment control. We learned that the existing Weir system is inadequate and that stipulations must be in effect for construction to be scheduled in the dry season months of July through September.

It was reiterated that the ideal use of Diamond Hill Park will be designated as a mixed use park for all aspects of passive, active and entertainment activity to be available. Concerns about an overflow parking lot was addressed and a collective theory is to create a venue that does not overwhelm the parking spaces that will be available.

An Educational component was addressed with a collective

suggestion and acknowledgement by Ms. Morris for educational signage via kiosks throughout the park. The importance of aesthetic consistency of signage throughout all of the town's public spaces was agreed to by all. Ms. Morris mentioned a Trails Grant grant to provide such signs.

The project at Diamond Hill Park is an investment in the community and will surely attract visitors and new residents to the town of Cumberland.

An amended proposal is to be provided to the commission reflecting changes in language and the removal of one photograph by Ms. Morris by October 10, 2013

Mr. Burke made a motion to to support the town's Master Plan as it addresses specifically conservation issues. Ms. Medeiros seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed. The CCC nominated Mr. Lang to draft a letter to express this notion. (Later the commission decided to draft this letter with each member contributing)

The Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted ,

Julie A.Medeiros
Secretary